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TRUTH, DECENCY, UTILITY.

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FRIDAY, October 1, 1790. This No. *Gratis*.

To the PUBLIC.

IT has been the wish of a number of the Editor's friends to see a Paper established on a plan differing in some respects from those now in circulation.—They were desirous that more attention should be paid to the *Sciences, Literature* in general, and more particularly to the *Useful Arts*.

These wishes, coinciding with the advice which the Publisher had received from his late Grand Father, suggested the idea of the present work.

A short sketch of the plan has already been made public in a handbill; it is thought expedient, notwithstanding, to give a more full account of the Editor's intentions.

The Freedom of the Press is the *Bulwark of Liberty*. An impartial Newspaper is the useful offspring of that *Freedom*. Its object is to inform.

In a Commonwealth, the People are the Basis on which all power and authority rest. On the extent of their knowledge and information the solidity of that Foundation depends. If the People are enlightened the Nation stands and flourishes; thro' ignorance it falls or degenerates.

These principles the Editor holds as just and fundamental. He will use his utmost endeavours to make his conduct conformable to them.

As long as the People remain the fountain of authority and power and are sensible of the importance of their rights as Freemen, Newspapers, considered merely in a political light, if properly conducted, will meet with encouragement. The opportunities which they afford to candid enquirers of obtaining political information, and to zealous patriots of making their sentiments public, for the good of the Community, are not to be equalled by those which any other species of publication can possibly offer.

Their general circulation and cheapness render them also very proper vehicles for every species of information in the *Arts, Sciences*, &c.

It is to be lamented that greater pains have not hitherto been taken to diffuse among the mass of citizens more knowledge of this kind, through the channel of Newspapers. It may continually be remarked, that curious facts, and important observations have been published many years without coming to the knowledge of those men who move in the busy scenes of life; though it is to such that this knowledge would be most really useful. It remains buried, and scattered in volumes, which are only within the reach of the man of leisure and fortune. It is therefore thought that a miscellany, well conducted, on the plan which is now offered to the Public, cannot fail of proving useful to those engaged in active pursuits.

The Editor is well aware of the difficulty attending the management of such a publication. The variety which it should contain is the principal source of that difficulty. What will interest one person may be useless or unintelligible to another. But it is hoped, that readers will forbear to condemn whatever does not immediately concern or please them, without having a regard to the number and variety of persons, engaged in *different pursuits*, and of *different dispositions*, to whose pursuits and dispositions some attention must at times be paid. It will be the Editor's study to offer to the public whatever he imagines may prove of the greatest and most general utility, and unite the greatest number of interests; still having an eye to, and on no occasion deviating from whatever has a tendency to promote the *public good*. To particularize,

In the first place, with regard to Domestic Politics. Pains will be taken to give the Public an accurate and early account of the Proceedings and Debates of those bodies in whose hands their dearest interests are intrusted. To give satisfaction in this particular, the Publisher conceives, that to convey the meaning of a speaker, in clear, intelligible language, and in as concise a manner as the nature of the subject admits, will be sufficient. He has been induced to believe that this method will be found preferable to the insertion of a speech at full length, taken *verbatim* from the Speaker's mouth. A person about to address a body of men of different ages, interests and dispositions, in order to be fully understood, must be copious, and should repeat the same sentiment clothed in different language, if it is his wish to convey his meaning to the whole number of hearers, on whom one mode of expression will not make a general impression. Indeed, without this precaution, a moment's inattention on the part of the hearer, or a single word pronounced indistinctly, may render the Speaker's meaning incomplete, or cause it to be misunderstood:—One link of his reasoning being lost, the chain of argument becomes imperfect, and the connection being broken, renders the conclusion obscure. But in writing fewer errors can arise from greater conciseness; if a sentence is not fully understood, it may be turned to and read over 'till comprehended.

Bills under consideration, and acts passed will have a place. An abstract may in some cases be thought sufficient. The language used in drawing them up, is necessarily replete with repetitions, so that oftentimes an idea of the meaning and intention of a bill or act can be conveyed in fewer words.

This head of Domestic Politics will also comprehend a succinct account of the public transactions in the sister States.

At the close of interesting periods a retrospect will be taken and a short recapitulation given to convey to the reader, at one view, an idea of the most important public transactions during that time.

The information given under this head will be useful to those who wish to make themselves acquainted with public measures. The Paper will always be open to their candid remarks, delivered with temper and decency.

Foreign Politics will be collected from the most authentic European prints received with regularity. A selection, and a careful one too, will be necessary here. Most of the European prints, particularly the British, abound with the most trifling matters, the recital of which cannot but disgust readers of taste. A liberty will be taken of omitting every thing of this kind. Some assistance also may be obtained from the friendly aid of those persons who will favor the Printer with intelligence that may have crossed the Atlantic in private channels.

The Editor has already opened such channels of correspondence in London, Paris, the West-Indies &c. as will enable him to give his encouragers early information, political and literary, from these places. He will take pains to establish the same communication with other places of consequence, as opportunities may offer.

Agriculture, being, with justice considered as the main support of a young country, particular attention will be paid to its interests and concerns. Information for this purpose will be drawn from those old countries, whose situations bear the nearest resemblance to ours, and from whose improvements we may derive the most benefit. Besides the advantages we may reap from these sources, much may be reasonably expected from the direct communications of those friends who make Agriculture their occupation here. Even their queries will be acceptable, and endeavours will be made to procure answers to them.

Commerce, from the assistance which it affords to Agriculture, by furnishing an outlet for the productions of the earth, and from the tendency which it has to extend human knowledge, and to promote liberality of sentiment and universal philanthropy, by the intercourse which it occasions between the most remote nations, deserves and will hold a distinguished place in this Miscellany. Particular care will be taken to collect from all quarters information capable of advancing its interests. Important intelligence will not be given unless authentic, or will be offered with the Publisher's doubts, and reasons for doubting; that Merchants may not be misled by false information.

The utmost endeavours will be used to furnish weekly, a correct and extensive Price-Current; and from the number of friends, who have promised their assistance towards making it complete, it is hoped that satisfaction will be given.

Manufactures and useful arts. Much valuable information will be given under this important head. A variety of materials being procured from Europe for the purpose, such articles will be selected as appear more immediately adapted to our situation and circumstances. From England, a great deal may be obtained; but the jealousy of their artists and their caution in communicating what they know, will, it is to be feared, often leave a wish that they had been more minute in their descriptions, or more accurate in their receipts. From France we may perhaps draw knowledge of this kind more to be depended on. The French nation is remarkable for the freedom with which they communicate their improvements in the *Useful Arts*, and in this they exhibit an example, worthy of imitation, but too little attended to by their neighbouring rivals. Their works descriptive of the *Arts and Trades*, abound with every species of elucidation.

The public will be furnished with accounts of the progress and improvements in American Manufactures. This will tend to make our ingenious countrymen exert their talents in this way, by exhibiting what may be done and exciting a laudable spirit of emulation. Every possible assistance in the way of information, will be given by the Editor, who will make it his particular care to procure answers to such queries as may be proposed.

And though the Fine Arts have not yet been much cultivated here, for want of that encouragement which old countries alone can afford; yet as some attention begins now to be paid to them, notice will be taken of them.

The Sciences, especially as they apply to the practice of the *Arts*, ought to have a share in the attention of all real *friends to this rising country*; nor *should the speculative* be entirely excluded. A study of them has a tendency to enlarge the perceptive faculties, and may often lead to useful discoveries. Who could have predicted, from the first steps made in the study of Electricity, that such valuable ends, as the preservation of our lives and property, could have been answered by deep researches into that science. Most of the Sciences still offer boundless fields unexplored, from which, with attention and perseverance, we may reap the greatest benefits. To Americans it now remains, while the Eastern Hemisphere is torn by wars and factions to erect the *standard* of Science on the *bulwark* of Liberty, and, while blessed with *Peace* and *Plenty*, turn their thoughts to these noble pursuits, which have already immortalized so many of their fellow-citizens.

Works of Wit, Humour, and of Fancy, provided they be the offspring of genuine *good humour*, free from abuse and indelicacies, will find a place. Surely a corner filled with something of this nature, even should its tendency be merely to amuse, will be more acceptable than the circumstantial account of a horrid murder, shocking suicide, or hard fought boxing battle, which only serves to turn our thoughts to the dark side of human nature, and put us out of humour with mankind. *Interesting occurrences*, an account of which may have a tendency to improve, to entertain, or to add any thing to the stock of useful knowledge, shall be faithfully recited. A tedious and uninteresting detail of trifling incidents shall be studiously avoided.

Interesting, instructive, and entertaining Anecdotes, deserve a place. As often as possible they will be original. Now and then as memory and recollection may serve, and time permit, it may be in the Editor's power to gratify the Public with an Anecdote of the life and character of his late Grand Father. And though he by fully feels, that it would require an abler pen than his to do them perfect justice; yet as there is no probability that they would ever appear in any other dress, he thinks that this consideration will make them acceptable.

Poetical performances which have novelty, elegance, or entertainment to recommend them, shall, from time to time be given. But the Editor will not confine himself in this respect. He would rather that his Paper should be without a poetical sprig, than admit an indifferent one.

A Title-page and Index will be delivered yearly to assist those Subscribers, who may bind up their Papers, in finding any important article which they may wish to refer to.

And now the Publisher has sketched the plan of his intended paper, and made the outlines public, he must acknowledge, that when he takes a view of the extensive variety it includes, he feels a great degree of diffidence and anxiety. Did his success depend upon his exertions only, his mind would be at ease; but when he considers the talents requisite to do justice to such an undertaking, when he enumerates the various parts of knowledge of which the Editor of a Newspaper should have at least a tincture, he is almost inclined to think the task above his strength. But when again he turns his thoughts to the number of friends who have promised their assistance, his hopes revive, and the *firm* resolution he has taken of doing *all* in his power to give satisfaction, emboldens him to undertake and seem to promise him success. He will spare no pains to improve his paper. *Advice* he will thankfully receive and attend to; yet the Publisher can safely promise, that no consideration whatever shall induce him blindly to submit to the influence of any man or set of men: His PRESS shall be FREE.

SINCE the plan of this Paper was published, a friend of the Editor suggested an idea for its improvement, in consequence of which he is induced to make the following alteration, or rather addition to his former Prospectus.

TO THOSE IN THE COUNTRY WHO WISH TO BECOME SUBSCRIBERS.

FOR the convenience of those in the Country who wish to encourage the Publisher, and who live at so great a distance as to render a daily paper less interesting, Subscriptions will be taken at *Two Dollars* per annum for the Paper to be published on Tuesday in every week.